

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-17 and 19-24 are pending in the application, with claims 4-8, 10, and 12 being the independent claims. By the foregoing amendment, claims 2-3, 9, 17, 19, 21, and 23-24 are amended, and claim 1 is canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-17, and 19-24 stand provisionally rejected for a nonstatutory double patenting rejection for obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of co-pending application No. 10/694,729. Applicants have included a terminal disclaimer herewith to obviate the provisional double patenting rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 17, and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over US patent 6,833,605 to Terada *et al.* (hereinafter Terada) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,693 to Ganmukhi *et al.* (hereinafter Ganmukhi) Applicant traverses below.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-3, 9, and 23 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 4. Claims 17, 19, 21, and 24 have been amended to

depend from claim 10. The remaining claims 11, 20, and 22 depend from the mentioned amended claims, and therefore depend indirectly from claims 4 or 10. It is noted that independent claims 4-8, 10, and 12 were not rejected as being obvious over Terada in view of Ganmukhi, and therefore should be allowable in light of the terminal disclaimer filed herewith. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 17, and 19-24 should now be allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 17, and 19-24 be removed.

Based on the discussion above, Applicants request that all objections and rejections be reconsidered and removed and that claims 2-17, and 19-24 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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